UNITED NATIONS

EP

UNEP/EA.1/INF/3

Distr.: General
30 May 2014

English only

United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme
First session
Nairobi, 23–27 June 2014
Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of United Nations summits, in particular the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and major intergovernmental meetings of relevance to the United Nations Environment Assembly

Results of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly of relevance to the United Nations Environment Assembly

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note highlights resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, mainly at its sixty-eighth session, that are relevant to the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Special attention has been given to resolutions adopted at both the sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions that are related to the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) outcome document, "The future we want", and to the process of strengthening and upgrading UNEP, as well as other measures and reforms related to the institutional framework for sustainable development.

In addition, detailed reference is made to those resolutions that will require specific actions by UNEP, either individually or as part of the United Nations system as a whole.

Consideration has been also given to resolutions with provisions of regional significance.

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I. Introduction

1. During the initial part of its sixty-eighth session, from 17 September to 27 December 2013, the General Assembly adopted 260 resolutions covering diverse areas including sustainable development and other environmental, social and economic matters; administrative and budgetary matters; disarmament and international security; human rights, social, humanitarian and cultural matters; and matters related to cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations.

2. A significant number of those resolutions are of direct relevance to the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), particularly its sub-programmes: environmental governance, ecosystem management, climate change, disasters and conflicts, chemicals and waste and resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production.

3. Notably, a significant number of resolutions included links to sustainable development and included provisions related to the transition from the Millennium Development Goals framework to the post-2015 development agenda.

4. A total of 41 draft resolutions were recommended for General Assembly adoption by the Second Committee, whose deliberations and decisions on economic and financial issues are of special relevance to UNEP, particularly with regard to resolutions on specific environmental matters, sustainable development and the follow-up to decisions adopted at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) on strengthening and upgrading UNEP and the wider institutional framework for sustainable development.

5. The Second Committee recommended that the General Assembly adopt resolution 68/215, on the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its first universal session and the implementation of section IV.C, entitled "Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development", of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. In its resolution 66/288, the Assembly endorsed the outcome document, "The future we want", and subsequently, in resolution 68/215, it called for the strengthening and upgrading of UNEP in accordance with subparagraphs 88 (a) to (h) of the outcome document, as endorsed by the Assembly, as well as with decisions adopted by the UNEP Governing Council at its first universal session, held in February 2013.

6. The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly adopt resolution 68/210, on the Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which provides for further follow-up on various provisions of "The future we want", with particular focus on the institutional framework for sustainable development, including provisions related to the High-level Political Forum on sustainable development and the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns.

7. In addition, some decisions and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly before the start of the sixty-eighth session will have considerable impact on the functioning of the institutional framework for sustainable development. Those include resolution 67/290, on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, and decision 67/564, on the board of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns. While the present note focuses on resolutions adopted during the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, summaries of resolution 67/290 and decision 67/564 have been included on an exceptional basis, taking into account that because of their dates of adoption they could not be included in the note prepared for the first universal session of the UNEP Governing Council on resolutions adopted at the sixty-seventh session.

8. The following sections summarize the General Assembly resolutions that are relevant to UNEP, underlining not only their main provisions, but also their significance to the Programme's mandate and future work: section II includes resolutions related to the follow-up to "The future we want", including the institutional framework for sustainable development and the strengthening and upgrading of UNEP; section III refers to resolutions that will require UNEP to contribute to follow-up actions; and section IV highlights other resolutions that could present opportunities or interlinkages with respect to the UNEP programme of work, including those of regional significance. The summaries of resolutions are organized chronologically under each section, following their assigned symbols and numbers. All resolutions adopted by the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session are available online at www.un.org/en/ga/68/resolutions.shtml.

II. Implementation of the Rio+20 outcome, including with regard to the institutional framework for sustainable development the strengthening and upgrading of UNEP

A. Resolution 67/290. Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development

9. Resolution 67/290, relevant to the UNEP environmental governance subprogramme, defined the organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development that was established in paragraph 84 of "The future we want". Through the resolution, the General Assembly decided that the forum should be convened every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the General Assembly and annually at the ministerial level under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council.

10. Among other provisions, the resolution reaffirmed that the high-level political forum should provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development, follow up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments, enhance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels and have a focused, dynamic and action-oriented agenda, ensuring the appropriate consideration of new and emerging sustainable development challenges.

11. It also decided that, when under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, the forum would, among other things, conduct regular reviews, starting in 2016, on the implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives, including those related to the means of implementation, within the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

12. With regard to the role of the organizations of the United Nations system, resolution 67/290 reaffirmed that the high-level political forum would take into account the work of intergovernmental bodies in the social, economic and environmental fields. This provision is relevant to UNEP and its United Nations Environment Assembly.

13. The General Assembly also decided that the high-level political forum could provide recommendations to the board of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, as well as to UNEP in its capacity as the secretariat of the framework.

B. Decision 67/564. Board of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns

14. By decision 67/564, relevant to the environmental governance and resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production subprogrammes, the General Assembly took note of the establishment of the 10-member board of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns in accordance with paragraph 226 of "The future we want" and resolution 67/203. In this regard, the Assembly also welcomed the membership of the board, as nominated by the five United Nations regional groups: South Africa and United Republic of Tanzania for Africa; Japan/Republic of Korea and Bangladesh/Indonesia for the Asia-Pacific region; Romania and the Russian Federation for Eastern Europe; Chile and Mexico for Latin America and the Caribbean; and Finland/Germany and Switzerland for the Western European and other States.

15. The General Assembly also decided that the board members would serve for an initial term of two years.

C. Resolution 68/1. Review of implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council

16. In resolution 68/1, relevant to the UNEP environmental governance subprogramme, the General Assembly adopted measures by which the Economic and Social Council would continue to strengthen its role as the central mechanism for coordinating the activities of the United Nations system and its specialized agencies and supervising subsidiary bodies in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, as well as the implementation of the outcomes of United Nations summits and conferences in those fields.

17. The General Assembly decided that the Economic and Social Council would adjust its programme of work to a July–July cycle and distribute the various segments of its traditional substantive session throughout the year. The Assembly also decided that Council would base its annual programme of work on a main theme that would be selected taking into account the role of the

Council in promoting the balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, as well as the post-2015 development agenda.

D. Resolution 68/6. Outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals

18. Through resolution 68/6, world leaders at the 2013 General Assembly special event on the Millennium Development Goals renewed their commitment to the Goals and resolved to intensify efforts to achieve them by 2015. In the outcome document adopted at the event, they indicated that efforts must target, particularly, the goals on which the least progress had been made, including those relating to environmental sustainability.

19. The outcome document also referred to the global determination to craft a strong post-2015 development agenda that built on the Millennium Development Goals, completed unfinished business and responded to emerging challenges. The document reaffirmed the centrality of poverty eradication and the promotion of sustainable development in the future post-2015 agenda, through an approach that would involve working towards a single framework and set of goals, universal in nature and applicable to all countries, while taking into account national circumstances, policies and priorities. Heads of State and Government also decided that the final phase of the intergovernmental work in this context would culminate in a summit in September 2015 for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda and requested the President of the General Assembly to convene consultations on the organizational aspects of the summit.

E. Resolution 68/210. Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

20. In resolution 68/210, relevant to the environmental governance and resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production subprogrammes, the General Assembly recalled the commitment to strengthen the Economic and Social Council and recognized its key role in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development; welcomed the outcome document of the 2013 special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and acknowledged processes such as the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and the process for the development of options for a technology facilitation mechanism; and urged those processes to complete their work in a comprehensive and balanced manner by September 2014.

21. The General Assembly also took note of reports of the Secretary-General on options for facilitating the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, welcomed the workshops at which those issues were discussed and decided to hold a new series of four one-day dialogues to consider possible arrangements for a technology facilitation mechanism.

22. On matters directly linked to UNEP work as the secretariat of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, the General Assembly welcomed the establishment of its 10-member board, recalled the decision that the high-level political forum on sustainable development might provide recommendations to the board and secretariat, and decided to review the arrangement to designate the Economic and Social Council as the ad interim Member State body to receive reports from the board and the secretariat at its sixty-ninth session, after the meeting of the high-level political forum in 2014.

F. Resolution 68/215. Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its first universal session and on the implementation of section IV.C, entitled "Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development", of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

23. In resolution 68/215, which is central to the environmental governance subprogramme and the new environment under review subprogramme, the General Assembly welcomed the convening of the first universal session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in February 2013 and took note of the report of the session. It also took note of several specific Governing Council decisions, including 27/2, on the implementation of paragraph 88 of "The future

we want", and 27/13, on the proposed medium-term strategy for the period 2014–2017 and the biennial programme of work and budget for 2014–2015.

24. The General Assembly also took note of decision 27/11, on the state of the environment and UNEP contributions to meeting environmental challenges, and welcomed the request that the Executive Director strengthen the policy relevance of the Global Environment Outlook; UNEP inputs, as the leading global environmental authority, on the environmental dimension of sustainable development, including in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda as well as in discussions on the scope and modalities of a global sustainable development report; and the proposal in the programme of work for 2014–2015 for the development of a gender and environment outlook. The resolution also reiterated the importance of capacity-building and technology support as important components of UNEP work and called for the continued and focused implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building.

25. The Assembly welcomed the establishment of the board of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns and recalled the decision that UNEP would serve as the secretariat of the framework.

26. The General Assembly took note of the inclusion by the Secretary-General of regular budget resources for the UNEP programme of work in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015 and requested the Secretary-General to maintain the resource needs of UNEP under review.

G. Resolution 68/248. Programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

27. In resolution 68/248, on the United Nations regular budget, including the provision of secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources critical to the strengthening and upgrading of UNEP pursuant to paragraph 88 of "The future we want", the General Assembly approved budget appropriations and income estimates for the biennium 2014–2015, as well as the financing of the appropriations for 2014. Specifically, the General Assembly approved appropriations totalling $5,530,349,800, of which $34,963,500 was allocated to UNEP for the implementation of its programme of work and for effective follow-up to the Rio+20 mandates.

III. Resolutions requiring contributions to follow-up actions

A. Resolution 68/70. Oceans and the law of the sea

28. Resolution 68/70, relevant to the ecosystem management subprogramme, was adopted by 115 votes in favour to 1 against, with 2 abstentions. Among other things, the General Assembly called on States to take measures consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea for the protection and preservation of the marine environment. The resolution also refers to matters affecting the health of the oceans and marine biodiversity relevant to the UNEP mandate, including marine pollution, marine debris, ocean acidification, climate change and alien invasive species, as well as science and the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects.

29. The General Assembly highlighted actions in the context of efforts in which UNEP takes part under frameworks such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, the Global Oceans Observing System, the Regular Process and specific activities to address the sources and impacts of marine debris.

30. The resolution also noted the adoption of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

B. Resolution 68/71. Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments

31. In resolution 68/71, relevant to the ecosystem management and resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production subprogrammes, the General Assembly agreed on an extensive set of measures in several areas related to achieving sustainable fisheries such as the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly

migratory fish stocks; related fisheries instruments; illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; monitoring, control and surveillance, and compliance and enforcement; fishing overcapacity; large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing; fisheries by-catch and discard; subregional and regional cooperation; responsible fisheries in the marine ecosystem; capacity-building; and cooperation within the United Nations system.

32. In the section on cooperation within the United Nations system, the General Assembly requests relevant actors to support increased enforcement and compliance capabilities for regional fisheries management organizations and their member States.

33. The General Assembly also acknowledges the serious environmental impacts on the marine environment caused by abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear and encourages States to take action to reduce such gear, noting the recommendations contained in a 2009 report by UNEP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

C. Resolution 68/73. Effects of atomic radiation

34. In resolution 68/73, relevant to the chemicals and waste subprogramme, the General Assembly commended the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for its valuable contribution to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation.

35. Furthermore, the General Assembly requested UNEP to continue and strengthen support for the work of the Committee and the dissemination of its findings to the Assembly, the scientific community and the public. It also encouraged UNEP to continue to strengthen the funding of the Committee, pursuant to paragraph 13 of resolution 67/112, and in that regard encouraged Member States to make voluntary contributions to the general trust fund established by the Executive Director to support the work of the Committee.

D. Resolution 68/89. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

36. Adopted by a vote of 128 in favour, with 55 abstentions, and relevant to UNEP regional and inter-regional activities, in resolution 68/89 the General Assembly requested relevant specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to provide information on environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanic eruptions, and other environmental problems such as beach and coastal erosion and droughts; and the illegal exploitation of the marine and other natural resources of the territories and the need to utilize them for the benefit of the peoples of the Territories.

E. Resolution 68/205. World Wildlife Day

37. By resolution 68/205, relevant to the ecosystem management subprogramme, the General Assembly proclaimed 3 March, the day of the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), as World Wildlife Day.

38. Furthermore, the General Assembly invited all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other organizations, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to observe and raise awareness of World Wildlife Day. More specifically, the Assembly requested the CITES secretariat, in collaboration with relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to facilitate the implementation of World Wildlife Day.

F. Resolution 68/206. Oil slick on Lebanese shores

39. Resolution 68/206, relevant to the disasters and conflicts subprogramme, was adopted by a vote of 169 in favour to 6 against, with 4 abstentions. In the resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to urge United Nations bodies and agencies and other relevant organizations to undertake a further study – building on the initial work of the World Bank presented through the report of the Secretary-General to the Assembly at its sixty-second session – with a view to measuring and quantifying the environmental damage sustained by Lebanon and neighbouring countries as a result of the destruction by the Israeli Air Force on 15 July 2006 of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of the Jiyeh electric power plant in Lebanon.

40. The General Assembly also recognized the multidimensionality of the adverse impact of the oil slick and, as it has in previous resolutions on the matter for consideration at previous sessions, requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the matter at its sixty-ninth session, under the

agenda item "sustainable development". The preparation of previous reports of the Secretary-General on the oil slick pursuant to previous resolutions has traditionally involved UNEP.

G. Resolution 68/207. Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America

41. Resolution 68/207 – relevant to the ecosystem management, resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production subprogrammes and regional and inter-regional activities – highlighted the efforts of the Governments of Central America in promoting sustainable tourism and identified measures to support them.

42. The General Assembly referred to some of the activities in which UNEP is involved as, among other things, it acknowledged the objectives, efforts and achievements of the Marrakech Process on sustainable consumption and production and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism and recognized opportunities for promoting sustainable tourism activities through the programme on sustainable tourism and its component on ecotourism under the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, for which UNEP serves as secretariat.

43. In addition, the General Assembly welcomed the efforts of the World Tourism Organization, UNEP, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Convention on Biological Diversity to promote sustainable tourism worldwide.

H. Resolution 68/208. Cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea

44. In resolution 68/208, relevant to the disasters and conflicts and chemicals and waste subprogrammes, the General Assembly invited Member States and relevant international and regional organizations to keep under observation the issue of the waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea, to continue outreach efforts aimed at assessing and increasing awareness of the environmental effects of such munitions and to cooperate in this area. In addition, the Assembly invited the Secretary-General to continue to seek the views of Member States and relevant regional and international organizations regarding measures to assess and increase awareness of the environmental effects of waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea with a view, among other things, to exploring the consolidation of a database.

I. Resolution 68/211. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

45. In resolution 68/211, relevant to the disasters and conflicts subprogramme, the General Assembly reiterated the importance of continued consideration of disaster risk reduction for the achievement of sustainable development and, among other things, welcomed the fourth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Geneva in May 2013.

46. The General Assembly also decided on some of the preparatory and organizational aspects of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Japan in 2015. Among other things, the Assembly decided that the Conference would result in a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented outcome document and would have as one of its objectives the adoption of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. In addition, the Assembly requested the organizations of the United Nations system to provide support and to contribute actively to the preparatory process and to the Conference, including through inter-agency cooperation.

J. Resolution 68/212. Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

47. In resolution 68/212, relevant to the environmental governance and climate change subprogrammes, the General Assembly took note of the outcome of the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Doha in 2012.

48. The General Assembly also recognized the need to build on the existing political momentum with a view to advancing climate change negotiations and encouraged Member States to approach the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Warsaw with a view to achieving an ambitious, substantive and balanced outcome, building on the conclusions contained in the Bali Action Plan and the decisions adopted at Cancun, Mexico, Durban, South Africa and Doha.

49. Furthermore, the Assembly took note of the decision by Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention to adopt a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convection applicable to all parties at its twenty-first session.

K. Resolution 68/213. Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

50. In resolution 68/213, relevant to the environmental governance and ecosystem management subprogrammes, the General Assembly reiterated its resolve to support and strengthen the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance its implementation (2008–2018). The Assembly also encouraged giving consideration to the issue of desertification in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

51. The Assembly also took note of the decision to relocate the Global Mechanism from the International Fund for Agricultural Development, in Rome, to Bonn, to be co-located with the secretariat of the Convention on Desertification; and invited the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to consider increasing allocations to the Convention.

L. Resolution 68/214. Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development

52. In resolution 68/214, relevant to the environmental governance and ecosystem management subprogramme, the General Assembly adopted several provisions acknowledging efforts to realize the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Among other things, the Assembly noted efforts made by the Convention secretariat and GEF, in conjunction with others, in organizing capacity-building workshops to support countries in the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

53. The General Assembly also expressed appreciation for a joint briefing by UNEP, the World Intellectual Property Organization, UNESCO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNCTAD, the secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the implementation of the objectives of the Convention, including actions to promote access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization and associated traditional knowledge, held on 30 October 2013, and encouraged similar interactions.

54. In addition, the General Assembly noted the continuing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Desertification Convention and the Framework Convention on Climate Change, and of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-Related Conventions, and recognized the importance of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions.

M. Resolution 68/216. Harmony with Nature

55. In resolution 68/216, relevant to the ecosystem management subprogramme, the General Assembly requested the President of the General Assembly to hold a regular, inclusive and interactive dialogue, at the plenary meetings to be convened during the commemoration of International Mother Earth Day on 22 April 2014, with the participation of Member States, United Nations organizations, independent experts and other stakeholders, to advance discussions on harmony with nature in order to promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

56. In addition, among other things the General Assembly encouraged all countries and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to develop and strengthen the quality and quantity of basic statistical data on the three dimensions of sustainable development.

N. Resolution 68/217. Sustainable mountain development

57. In resolution 68/217, relevant to the ecosystem management subprogramme, the General Assembly encouraged various measures and efforts that States and other stakeholders could take in order to ensure sustainable development in mountain areas, including for the well-being of their local populations and the conservation of mountain ecosystems.

58. The General Assembly encouraged all relevant entities of the United Nations system to further enhance their constructive efforts to strengthen inter-agency collaboration to achieve more effective implementation of relevant commitments contained in Agenda 21, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and "The future we want". The Assembly indicated that there was a need for further involvement in this area by the United Nations system, in particular on the part of FAO, UNEP, the United Nations University, UNDP, UNESCO and the United Nations Children's Fund, and by international financial institutions.

O. Resolution 68/238. Follow-up to and Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

59. In resolution 67/238, relevant to the environmental governance subprogramme and to regional and inter-regional activities, the General Assembly further defined organizational and preparatory aspects of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in Apia, Samoa, from 1 to 4 September 2014. Specifically, the Assembly decided on matters such as the schedule and scope of meetings of the Conference preparatory committee, the composition of the bureau and the overarching theme of the Conference, "the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States through genuine and durable partnerships".

60. In addition, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide support to the work of the intergovernmental committee process and the Conference and to ensure inter-agency cooperation and effective participation and coherence within the United Nations system.

IV. Other resolutions of potential relevance to the UNEP programme of work

A. Environmental governance subprogramme

61. In resolution 68/36, the most recent version of a resolution adopted annually since 1995 on the observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control, the General Assembly, among other things, reaffirmed that international disarmament forums should take fully into account relevant environmental norms in negotiating treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms limitation. It called upon States to adopt measures to ensure the application of scientific and technological progress within the framework of international security and related spheres, without detriment to the environment or to its effective contribution to attaining sustainable development.

62. By resolution 68/139, on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas, the General Assembly urged Member States to attach greater importance to improving the situation of rural women, including indigenous women, in their national, regional and global development strategies. It also requested the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular those dealing with issues of development, to address and support the empowerment of rural women and their specific needs by, among many other things, developing strategies to decrease women's vulnerability to environmental factors while promoting rural women's role in protecting the environment.

63. In its resolution 68/147, on the rights of the child, the General Assembly, among other things, expressed its profound concern that the situation of children in many parts of the world remained critical as a result of the persistence of poverty, social inequality, inadequate social and economic conditions, pandemics, non-communicable diseases, lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation, environmental damage and natural disasters, among other causes. It also urged all States to establish and strengthen mechanisms for the effective participation of children in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation relating to matters that affected them, such as health, environment, education, social and economic welfare, protection against violence, abuse and exploitation and disaster response.

64. In its resolution 68/149, on the rights of indigenous peoples, the General Assembly, among other things, recognized the value and diversity of the cultures and the forms of social organization of indigenous peoples and their holistic traditional scientific knowledge of their lands, natural resources and environment. It also requested that United Nations entities further enhance their coordination and intensify their efforts to achieve a more coherent, comprehensive and integrated approach to the rights of indigenous peoples through the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues and the United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Partnership.

65. In its resolution 68/175, on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, approved by a vote of 132 in favour to 52 against, with 6 abstentions, the General Assembly expressed deep concern that the current global economic, financial, energy and food crises, resulting from macroeconomic and other factors such as environmental degradation, desertification and global climate change, natural disasters and a lack of financial resources and the technology necessary to confront their negative impact in developing countries, particularly in least developed countries and small island developing States, represented a global scenario that was threatening the adequate enjoyment of all human rights and widening the gap between developed and developing countries.

66. In resolution 68/193, on strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity, the General Assembly, among other things, drew attention to emerging policy issues related to the technical cooperation activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including environmental crime such as illicit trafficking in endangered species of wild fauna and flora. It encouraged Member States to make illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora involving organized criminal groups a serious crime in order to ensure that adequate and effective means of international cooperation could be afforded under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in the investigation and prosecution of those engaged in illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora. It also strongly encouraged Member States to take appropriate measures, consistent with their domestic legislation and legal frameworks, to strengthen law enforcement and related efforts to combat individuals and groups, including organized criminal groups, operating within their borders, with a view to preventing, combating and eradicating international trafficking in wildlife, forest products, including timber, and other forest biological resources harvested in contravention of national laws and relevant international instruments.

67. Resolution 68/198, on information and communication technologies for development, focused on the role and potential of information and communications technologies in fostering sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, as well as addressing challenges in the context of globalization.

68. In resolution 68/229, on operational activities for development of the United Nations system, the General Assembly referred to several aspects of such activities and, among other things, recognized the importance of continuing to strengthen and improve the results-focused delivery of operational activities for development in order to maximize their support for accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and for the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

69. Resolution 68/230, on South-South cooperation, included several requests to entities of the United Nations system that they support South-South and triangular cooperation through various measures. It also included a request to the United Nations development system that it further assess, within the report of the Secretary-General on the subject, progress made in its provision of such support, particularly with regard to the mobilization of technical and financial resources for South-South cooperation. It also included a request that the United Nations development system improve coordination among its agencies in order to enhance its support for South-South and triangular cooperation, that it monitor progress at the global and regional levels and that it continue to evaluate the support that it provides for South-South and triangular cooperation. In addition, the United Nations development system was requested to accord a high priority to facilitating programmes and projects on South-South and triangular cooperation and to assist countries of the South, upon their request, in implementing them to ensure that sustainability was a key component of those projects.

70. In resolution 68/234, entitled "Towards global partnerships: a principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners", the General Assembly, among other things, highlighted the important contribution of partnerships to the achievement of development goals; emphasized the vital role played by Governments in promoting responsible business practices; and recognized the importance of giving due consideration to the various contributions of all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, to the intergovernmental process of elaborating the post-2015 development agenda.

71. In resolution 68/239, on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the General Assembly, among other things, welcomed the offer of the Government of Ecuador to host the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016; welcomed the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2014–2019; and decided to designate 31 October of every year, beginning in 2014, as World Cities Day.

B. Ecosystem management subprogramme

72. By its resolution 68/157, on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, the General Assembly called on States to ensure the progressive realization of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation for all in a non-discriminatory manner while eliminating inequalities in access. It also recognized the need to give due consideration to the right in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

73. In resolution 68/177, on the right to food, the General Assembly recognized that the complex character of the global food crisis was a combination of the global financial and economic crises, environmental degradation, desertification and the impacts of global climate change, as well as natural disasters and the lack in many countries of the appropriate technology, investment and capacity-building necessary to confront its impact. It also expressed its deep concern at the number and scale of natural disasters, diseases and pest infestations, as well as the negative impact of climate change, and their increasing impact in recent years, which had resulted in substantial loss of life and livelihood and threatened agricultural production and food and nutrition security, in particular in developing countries. It stressed the importance of international cooperation and development assistance as an effective contribution both to the expansion and improvement of agriculture and its environmental sustainability, food production, breeding projects on diversity of crops and livestock, and institutional innovations such as community seed banks, farmer field schools and seed fairs.

74. In resolution 68/209, on agricultural technology for development, which was adopted by a vote of 144 in favour to 1 against, with 34 abstentions, the General Assembly recognized the overall importance of agricultural technologies in the context of sustainable development and, among other things, urged Member States, United Nations organizations and other stakeholders to strengthen efforts to improve the development of sustainable agricultural technologies and their transfer and dissemination and to support national efforts to foster utilization of local know-how and agricultural technologies, promote agricultural technology research and access to knowledge and information, increase sustainable agricultural productivity, reduce post-harvest losses and enhance food and nutritional security.

75. The General Assembly also adopted resolutions 68/221, 68/231 and 68/232, by which it declared, respectively, 2015 the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies, 2016 the International Year of Pulses, 5 December World Soil Day and 2015 the International Year of Soils.

C. Climate change subprogramme

76. In resolution 68/141, on the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the General Assembly, among many other things, expressed its concern about the challenges posed by climate change and environmental degradation to the operations of the Office of the High Commissioner and the assistance it provided to vulnerable populations of concern across the globe, particularly in least developed countries, and urged the Office to continue to address such challenges in its work.

77. In resolution 68/220, on science, technology and innovation for development, the General Assembly recognized the role and potential of science, technology and innovation, including environmentally sound technologies, in development and in facilitating efforts to address global challenges such as efforts to eradicate poverty, improve energy security, protect the environment and fight climate change. Among other things, the Assembly reaffirmed its commitment to encouraging the engagement of the private sector to support developing countries, including through voluntary partnerships and mechanisms such as the Climate Technology Centre and Network of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

D. Disasters and conflicts subprogramme

78. In resolution 68/46, on taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, the General Assembly, among other things, encouraged Member States and others to take into account the report of its Open-ended Working Group and the proposals contained therein in the discussions in other forums on humanitarian, health, human rights, environmental and development affairs. The text was adopted by a vote of 158 in favour to 4 against, with 20 abstentions.

79. In its resolution 68/143, on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa, the General Assembly, among many other things, called upon the international donor community to provide material and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure affected by refugees in countries of asylum and by internally displaced persons, where appropriate.

80. In its resolution 68/180, on protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, the General Assembly, among many other things, recognized the adverse effects of climate change as a contributor to environmental degradation and extreme weather events, which in turn might contribute to human displacement.

81. In resolution 68/235, entitled "Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources", which was adopted by a vote of 168 in favour to 6 against, with 9 abstentions, the General Assembly reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land, water and energy resources. The Assembly also demanded that Israel cease the exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion and endangerment of those natural resources and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the implementation of the resolution, including with regard to the cumulative impact of the exploitation, damage and depletion of the natural resources.

E. Chemicals and waste subprogramme

82. In resolution 68/53, on the prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes, the General Assembly called upon all States to take appropriate measures to prevent any dumping of nuclear or radioactive wastes that would infringe upon the sovereignty of States and expressed the hope that the effective implementation of the International Atomic Energy Agency Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste would enhance the protection of all States from the dumping of radioactive wastes on their territories.

83. In resolution 68/218, on the role of the international community in averting the radiation threat in Central Asia, the General Assembly called upon the international community to assist the States of Central Asia in resolving the problems of uranium tailings ponds and emphasized the importance of regional cooperation in areas such as legislative frameworks, the management and maintenance of toxic tailings, remediation of tailings ponds and safety-monitoring, public awareness, and socioeconomic, health and humanitarian measures.

F. Resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production subprogramme

84. In resolution 68/135, on the implementation of the outcome of the 1995 World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, the Assembly, among other things, recognized the complex character of the continuing food insecurity situation as a combination of several major factors, including environmental degradation, drought and desertification, global climate change, natural disasters and a lack of the necessary technology. The Assembly also expressed concern that the continuing adverse impact of the world financial and economic crises, volatile energy and food prices, food insecurity and the challenges posed by climate change, as well as a lack of results in the multilateral trade negotiations, had negative implications for social development.

85. In its resolution 68/158, on the right to development, adopted on by a vote of 158 to 4, with 28 abstentions, the General Assembly, among many other things, expressed deep concern about the negative impact on the realization of the right to development of the further aggravation of the economic and social situation as a result of the ongoing international energy, food and financial crises, as well as the increasing challenges posed by global climate change and the loss of biodiversity, which had increased vulnerabilities and inequalities and had adversely affected development gains, in particular in developing countries.

86. In its resolution 68/160, on enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights, the General Assembly urged States to take measures necessary to enhance cooperation aimed at addressing the adverse impact of consecutive and compounded global crises such as financial and economic crises, food crises, climate change and natural disasters on the full enjoyment of human rights.

87. In its resolution 68/168, on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights, adopted by a vote of 136 in favour to 55 against, the General Assembly, realizing the need to undertake a thorough, independent and comprehensive assessment of the social, environmental and cultural impact of globalization on societies, called upon Member States, relevant agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and civil society to promote inclusive, equitable and environmentally sustainable economic growth for managing globalization so that poverty was systematically reduced and international development targets were achieved.

88. The General Assembly also adopted resolutions 68/199, 68/201, 68/202 and 68/203, on, respectively, international trade and development; the international financial system and development; external debt sustainability and development; and commodities. All four resolutions dealt with basic macroeconomic policy issues and their impact on development.

G. Regional activities and inter-regional activities

89. In resolution 68/62, entitled "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa", the General Assembly, among other things, reaffirmed its support for efforts aimed at promoting such measures at the regional and subregional levels in order to ease tensions and conflicts in Central Africa and further sustainable peace, stability and development in the subregion. It also expressed concern over the negative impact of poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking on the ecosystem, human development and regional security and decided to take steps to develop a regional approach to counter that phenomenon. It was adopted on 5 December without a vote.

90. In resolution 68/194, on the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the General Assembly, among many other things, encouraged the Institute, in cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies, to take into account the various planning authorities in the region that focused attention on the coordination of activities that promoted development based on sustainable agricultural production and preservation of the environment in developing its crime prevention strategies.

91. In resolution 68/92, on the question of New Caledonia, the General Assembly, among other things, noted both the continuing concerns of the Kanak people regarding the impact of mining on the environment as well as positive initiatives such as the "Zonéco" operation, designed to map and evaluate marine resources within the economic zone of the Territory.

92. In resolution 68/93, on the question of French Polynesia, the General Assembly recognized the significant health and environmental impacts of nuclear testing conducted by the administering Power in the Territory over a 30-year period. It also requested the Secretary-General to compile a report on the environmental, ecological, health and other impacts of the testing.

93. In resolution 68/94, on the question of Tokelau, the General Assembly acknowledged New Zealand's consistent commitment to meeting the social and economic requirements of the people of Tokelau, notably through the completion of the Tokelau Renewable Energy Project. It also noted the island's desire to gain access to resources from international organizations such as GEF.

94. In resolution 68/95, on the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, the General Assembly, among other things, reaffirmed the responsibility of the administering Powers of the Territories to promote the Territories' economic and social development and requested both the Territories and the administering Powers to take all measures necessary to protect the environments of the Territories.